



AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Presented below are the claims, as amended, with changes entered and not marked.

RECEIVED
APR 24 2001
102800 MAIL ROOM

1. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

B,
an analog photocell adapted to capture light energy incident upon it as a series of analog signals;

a first sample-and-hold amplifier coupled to said photocell and adapted to store a first analog signal of the series of analog signals;

a second sample-and-hold amplifier coupled to the first sample-and-hold amplifier and adapted to store the first analog signal when the first sample-and-hold amplifier stores a second analog signal of the series of analog signals;

a differential amplifier coupled to the first and second sample-and-hold amplifiers generating an analog difference of the first analog signal and the second analog signal;

a digital converter coupled to said differential amplifier said converter transforming the analog difference into a digital value.

- Sub
C,
concl'd
2. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said digital converter includes:

a voltage controlled oscillator;

a counter coupled to said oscillator, said oscillator setting the rate of increase of said counter.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising:

a register coupled to said counter, said register receiving said digital value as an output of said counter at the end of a predetermined time period.

4. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said digital converter includes:

a scaling signal supply, said supply adapting the output of said oscillator in a dynamic range consistent with ambient lighting to which said photocell is exposed.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1 utilized in an imaging device.